



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

col

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/500,524	06/30/2004	Craig N. Butler	BEA920010034US1	6422
49474	7590	06/15/2005	EXAMINER	
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL DRYJA 704 228TH AVE NE #694 SAMMAMISH, WA 98074			LA, ANH V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2636	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/500,524

Applicant(s)

BUTLER ET AL.

Examiner

Anh V. La

Art Unit

2636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/11/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bellin (US 6,072,858).

Regarding claim 1, Bellin discloses a system comprising two or more power line communication units 40, 50, 60, each coupled to and sending an identifier over at least one power circuit 30 (column 6, lines 30-50, col. 8, lines 15-20), a management component responsive to at least some of the identifiers sent over the power circuits and including a representation or verification of couplings of the communications units to the at least one power circuit (abstract, figures 1-6).

Regarding claim 2, Bellin discloses the communication unit further receiving other identifiers over the at least one power circuit, and the management component is further responsive to at least some of the other identifiers received by each communication unit (fig. 1-6).

Regarding claim 3, Bellin discloses a power component (fig. 1-6).

Regarding claim 4, Bellin discloses a power component (fig. 1-6).

Regarding claim 5, Bellin discloses a plurality of sub-systems, each sub-system encompassing at least one of the power line communication units, and wherein the management component includes a verification or representation of connections of the

power line communication units of each sub-system to the at least one power circuit (fig. 1-3).

Regarding claim 6, Bellin discloses each sub-system having a corresponding management component that includes a verification or representation of connections of the power line communication units of the sub-system to the power circuit (fig. 1-3).

Regarding claim 7, Bellin discloses two or more power circuits and wherein the management component includes a verification of connections of the power line communication units of each sub-system to at least two of the power circuit (fig. 1-3).

Regarding claim 8, Bellin discloses a plurality of power supplies corresponding to the power line communication units (fig. 1-3).

Regarding claim 9, Bellin discloses a sub-system including the two or more power line communication units, two or more power supplies each coupled to one of the communication units and the management component (fig. 1-3).

Regarding claim 10, Bellin discloses two or more management components (col. 2, lines 30-45).

Regarding claim 11, Bellin discloses the two or more management components being networked together (col. 2, lines 30-45).

Regarding claim 12, Bellin discloses the power circuit comprising two or more power circuits, and different power sources (fig. 1-3).

Regarding claim 13, Bellin discloses a method comprising collecting a plurality of identifiers (col. 6, lines 30-50, col. 8, lines 15-20) sent by a plurality of power line communication units 40, 50, 60, over one or more power circuits 30 to which the

communication units are coupled and verifying or representing couplings of the communication units to the one or more power circuits by using at least some of the identifiers (fig. 1-6, abstract).

Regarding claim 14, Bellin discloses power circuits comprising a plurality of power circuit and wherein verifying or representing that the power line communication units are properly coupled to the power circuit comprises verifying or representing that a plurality of sub-systems over which the plurality of power line communication units are partitioned each has a sub-plurality of power line communication units partitioned thereto that are coupled to more than one of the power circuit (fig. 1-6, col. 2-4).

Regarding claim 15, Bellin discloses the identifiers being collected directly from the plurality of power line communication units, each communication unit sending for collection a self-identifying one of the identifiers (fig. 1-6).

Regarding claim 16, Bellin discloses the communication also sending for collection one or more other identifiers received over the one or more power circuits, and herein using at least the plurality of identifiers comprises also using at least some of the other identifiers sent by each communication unit (fig. 1-6).

Regarding claim 17, Bellin discloses the identifiers being collected directly from one or more power circuit components receiving the plurality of identifiers from over the one or more power circuit which the plurality of power line communication units sent the plurality of identifiers (fig. 1-3, col. 6, lines 30-50, col. 8, lines 15-20).

Regarding claim 18, Bellin discloses an article for use with identifiers produced by two or more power line communication units 40, 50, 60, connected to at least one

Art Unit: 2636

power circuit, the article comprising a computer-readable medium (col. 2, lines 30-45) a power circuit identifier receiver in the medium responsive to the identifiers (col. 6, lines 30-56, col. 8, lines 15-20, a management component 10 in the medium, and responsive to the power circuit identifier receiver, and including a verification or representation of connections of at least some of the two or power line communication units to the at least one power circuit (fig. 1-6).

Regarding claim 19, Bellin discloses the power circuit identifier receiver being further responsive to the other identifiers received by at least some of the power line communication units from others of the power line communication units and sent by the communication units to the power circuit identifier receiver, and the management component being further responsive to the other identifier and including a verification or representation of whether the communication units and the other communication units are connected to the same power circuit (fig. 1-6).

Regarding claim 20, Bellin discloses the medium being one of a modulated carrier signal and a recordable data storage medium (fig. 1-6, col. 2, lines 30-45).

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Takasan discloses a communication method and apparatus for conveyor carriages.

Tondorf discloses a method of transmitting information and a device suitable therefore.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh V. La whose telephone number is (571) 272-2970. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 9:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ANH V. LA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Anh V La
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2636

AI
June 02, 2005